

10/582355

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of: **Masayoshi ESASHI et al.**

Application Number: **Not yet assigned**

(§371 of international application No. PCT/JP2004/018855)

Filed: **June 9, 2006**

For: **ACTIVE TUBE AND ACTIVE TUBE SYSTEM**

Attorney Docket Number: **062648**

Customer Number: **38834**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 9, 2006

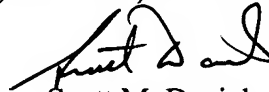
Sir:

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants direct the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office to the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. A copy of each non- U.S. document is enclosed herewith.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: PTO/SB/08, 5 documents and international search report.

Combined Form PTO/SB/08A&B <p style="text-align: center;"><u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</u> <u>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">107582355</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">Completed if known New Application</div>	
				Application Number	
				Confirmation Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet 1 of 1				Attorney Docket Number 062648	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	1	JP	11-48171	A	02-23-1999	Masaki ESASHI et al.	Abstract. Cited in the ISR
	2	JP	2002-143312	A	05-21-2002	Sumitomo Bakelite Co., Ltd.	Abstract. Cited in the ISR
	3	JP	3-86144	A	04-11-1991	Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.	Abstract. Cited in the ISR
	4	JP	5-31066	A	02-09-1993	Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.	Abstract. Cited in the ISR

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
	5	Hironobu TAKIZAWA et al.; "Development of a Microfine Active Bending Catheter Equipped with MIF Tactile Sensors", Olympus Optical Co., Ltd. Cited in the specification.	
	6	International Search Report of PCT/JP2004/018855, date of mailing April 19, 2005	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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